

Word Pebble Path

Words can be discovered like Easter eggs, and a puzzle put together by students, for students.
How challenging can they make it?

Objective:

To practise vocabulary, decorate the garden and lead students on a trail of discovery.

You will need:

- Several flat, smooth stones, such as river cobbles or flattish, well-worn beach stones
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Marker pens (optional)

What to do:

- After an activity such as a poetry discovery session, or writing adjectives, or creative writing in the garden, students select a series of words to 'plant' in the garden.
- Words might follow a sequence, such as 'sprout – bud – flower – fruit' or 'dig – plant – grow – harvest' or they might be words related to a theme, such as scent in the garden; 'tangy – citrusy – spicy – fresh – damp'.
- Students write or draw their words on the flat surface of the rocks.
- When the words have dried, students place them in the garden. Look for ways to place them near stepping stones or paths.
- Students devise a 'word hunt' activity for their peers. This might take the form of a poem with words that are blanks – word hunters need to find the words and fill in the blanks.

Variation:

- Older students can devise a garden alphabet and decorate the garden with their words and letters (A=artichoke, B=bees, C=compost, for example), then lead the younger students on an alphabet trail to find all the words.

Tip

This works best with smaller groups, and clearly the word pebbles should be placed where eager feet won't step on plants, i.e. under trees, tucked next to benches and in among stepping stones where a path already exists. (If students want to make the activity harder, combine it with the Word Tree and hang some of the scavenger hunt words from a tree!)

